

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04134 040601Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /066 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9722  
INFO CICSPAC  
DIA  
FBIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4134

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: MILI, PINT, PINR, CH  
SUBJECT: KEY LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO FEI I-MIN

REF: HONG KONG 4094

1. IN A MARCH 30 MEETING WITH CONGENOFFS, TA KUNG PAO  
PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN STATED THAT CHINA WAS NOW BEING LED BY  
THREE MEN, PARTY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AND VICE CHAIRMAN  
TENG HSIAO-PING AND LI HSIEN NIEN, WHO ARE MORE OR LESS INTER-  
CHANGEABLE IN SOME FUNCTIONS. EACH HAD ROLES IN WHICH HE WAS  
MORE OR LESS PREDOMINANT -- TENG IN MILITARY AND SCIENCE  
AFFAIRS; LI IN FINANCE WORK -- BUT FEI INSISTED THE THREE  
WORKED TOGETHER COLSELY ON THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION  
OF POLICY. HE AGAIN DESCRIBED HUA AS "VERY MODEST" AND  
ALWAYS CAREFUL TO CONSULT HIS ELDERS.

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2. FEI INTERESTINGLY DID NOT CREDIT HUA WITH ANY  
PARTICULAR FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION BUT DID INDICATE  
THAT HUA WAS ACCEPTED AS THE MAN WHO WOULD ASSURE LONG-  
TERM POLICY CONTINUITY. FEI SAID THAT TENG  
AND VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING HAD BOTH BEEN SUPPORTERS  
OF THE IDEA THAT HUA SHOULD CONTINUE AS PREMIER SO AS

TO AVOID A SUCCESSION PROBLEM FOR THE NEAR TERM. HE RECALLED TENG'S DISAVOWAL LAST YEAR OF INTEREST IN THE PREMIERSHIP, AND CLAIMED YEH HAD SAID, "WE MUST HAVE NO SUCCESSIONS FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS." (COMMENT: THIS IS THE PERIOD THE CURRENT DEVELOPEMTN PLAN HAS LEFT TO RUN.)

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT YEH CHIEN-YING'S CURRENT ROLE, FEI REPLIED THAT YEH WAS OF COURSE AN OLD MAN BUT THAT HE WAS DEFINITELY WELL-RESPECTED AMONG THE PLA AND WAS MUCH BELOVED. HE STATED THAT YEH WAS VERY MUCH A PARTICIPANT IN THE LEADERSHIP'S DECISION MAKING BUT STILL INSISTED THAT THE THREE KEY LEADERS WERE HUA, TENG AND LI. (LAST YEAR FEI INSISTED ON A HUA-YEH-TENG TRIUMVIRATE.) ACCORDING TO FEI, YEH, ALONG WITH MILITARY COMMISSION "RESPONSIBLE PERSON" SU YU, AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF/FOOCHOW MILITARY REGION COMMANDER YENG CHENG-WU WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN THE PLA. WHEN ASKED ABOUT WHERE LO JUI-CHING FIT IN THIS GROUP, FEI COMMENTED THAT LO WAS AN "IMPORTANT ADVISOR" BUT IMPLIED LO WAS TOO BADLY INJURED TO PLAY A VERY ACTIVE ROLE. (DESPITE THE PHYSICAL AILMENTS, LO HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE WRITER SINCE LAST FALL, PENNING TWO MAJOR ARTICLES AND A BRIEF LETTER WHICH HAVE RECEIVED NATIONWIDE MEDIA ATTENTION). YANG CHENG-WU WAS CITED PRIMARILY IN HIS FOOCHOW POST WHICH FEI NOTED WAS "OF COURSE VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT" BEING OPPOSITE TAIWAN. ALMOST AS AN AFTER-THOUGHT, FEI NOTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER HSU HSIANG-CHIEN WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FIGURE AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO PLAY A ROLE IN MILITARY DECISION MAKING. DESPITE HSU'S AGE, FEI DID NOT PLACE HIM IN THE CATEGORY OF "ELDERLY" AS HE DID YEH CHIEN-YING. BUT FOR FEI, YANG WARRANTED EXTRA ATTENTION BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY IN HIS SIXTIES AND AGAIN REPRESENTED LONG-TERM LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY. (COMMENT: FEI'S IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLA'S TOP LEADERSHIP SEEMS SOMEWHAT FANCIFUL. WE HAVE DOUBTS THAT SU YU WOULD BE MORE IMPORTATN THAN DEFENSE MINISTER HSU AND WOULD BE SURPRISED IF YANG CHENG-WU COUNTED FOR MORE THAN FIUGRES SUCH AS YANG YUNG OR HSU SHIH-YU).

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE REASON FOR THE LARGE SHIFT IN MACHINE BUILDING MINISTERS FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, FEI STATED THAT THIS WAS "PART OF THE BACK TO THE BARRACKS MOVEMENT". HE NOTED THAT OF THE CIVILIANS ALSO HAD TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. HE COMMENTED THAT SEVENTH MACHINE BUILDING MINISTER SUNG JEN-CHIUNG WAS "A POWERFUL FIGURE" WHO HAD CONFIDED IN FEI THAT

HE HAD RETURNED TO ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE ONLY SOME  
THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

5. COORDINATED WITH USDLO.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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